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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Rikuro Obara et al.

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Examiner:

Ryan P. Gillan

Group Art Unit: 3746

Sarah Schlie

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Sir:

This paper is in response to Office Action dated November 1, 2006, on which the shortened statutory period for response expired on February 1, 2007. Accordingly, this response requires a one (1) month extension of time. A Petition for Extension of Time (1 month) is being filed together with this Response. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims and to further examine the application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.